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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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MEMORANDUM FOR: DC/SB/BLOC

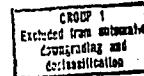
SUBJECT : Espionage Charges Against Destan BERISHA

1. SB/YA has recently received a transcript of the indictment against former CIA agent and U.S. citizen, Destan BERISHA whom the Yugoslav Government is preparing to try on espionage charges. The charges are voluminous but fall into two basic categories: BERISHA's participation in Agency sponsored Albanian paramilitary operations in 1950-51 and his 1966 activities in Yugoslavia on behalf of the "Prizren League in Emigration". BERISHA will be tried as a citizen of Yugoslavia.

2. Yugoslav knowledge of BERISHA's 1950-51 Agency activities could not be more complete had they read the Operation Plans for his missions. The indictment gives in detail where BERISHA was recruited, where and how he was trained, with whom he worked, how his group was equipped, and what their missions entailed. The primary charge stemming from this period is that BERISHA organized armed groups on Yugoslav soil and attempted to create a spy network in Yugoslavia on behalf of the CIA.

3. The charge against BERISHA for his more recent activities is that he joined the anti-Yugoslav organization the "Prizren League in Emigration" in New York in 1962 and has since worked with this organization against Yugoslav interest. Evidence against BERISHA include photographs of him with leaders of "The League". He is specifically charged with trying to build an organization

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in Kosovo-Metohija whose aim was to wrest this predominately ethnic Albanian territory from Yugoslav control and return it to Albania. Although not explicitly stated in the indictment, it is intimated that the above organization is connected with "the American Intelligence Service". Given the array of evidence against BERISHA, a judgment of "guilty" appears to be certain. All that remains to be seen is the severity of his sentence.

4. As you will recall, Congressman Silvio Conte (R-Mass) is interested in the BERISHA case. Mr. CONTE is scheduled to visit Europe soon and according to our information plans to visit BERISHA in prison. We will keep you advised of ~~more~~ further developments in this case.

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Acting Chief, SB/A

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